

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20540-5102

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I am writing in support of a Public Interest Waiver of the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements for the Town of Derby Line, Vermont. Derby Line is in an entirely unique circumstance as it seeks Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for the Village's share of the cost to upgrade a wastewater treatment facility that is located across the international border in Quebec, Canada.

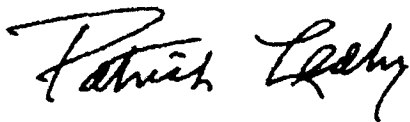
Thirty seven years ago next week, in my freshman term as a U.S. Senator, I attended a ceremony on Vermont's border with Quebec to memorialize a totally unique agreement providing for Derby Line Vermont and Stanstead, Quebec, Canada to share a single sewage treatment plant, in Canada. These two small towns are, in essence, one village, the international border literally passes through the town library. I was proud to help negotiate this bi-national project that still stands as a historic agreement to combat water pollution.

Now it is time to upgrade the 37 year old facility in order to protect the water quality, and Derby Line, a small economically stressed rural community is qualified for, and will depend on federal CWSRF financial support to complete the project. The infrastructure will be located in Canada, however, and that country has its own requirements similar to AIS, which prohibit the use of U.S. materials in this case, preventing Derby line from accessing EPA dollars unless AIS is waived.

When this project was constructed in the 1980's the U.S. EPA granted a waiver from the "Buy America" requirements applicable at that time. A similar waiver of the AIS requirement is needed now for this small rural community to continue to protect water quality while providing affordable utility service to its residents.

By granting this waiver you will renew this shining example of international environmental cooperation while also assisting this small rural agricultural community on our northern border.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator